

## **II. Court Outreach to the Public**



## **A. Programs**

- Adoption Family Tree Display
- Heart Galleries
- Open Courthouse to Educate the Public
- Volunteer or Mentor Attorney Program



# **Adoption Family Tree Display**

## **What is it?**

An Adoption Family Tree is a large artistic display of all the children being adopted that day, week, or year, depending on the size of the court and the number of adoptions that take place. Typically, the newly adopted children contribute their name to the tree on Court Adoption and Permanency Day as part of a local celebration, and then it is left up for several weeks or a month after that. It may be a smaller-scale project made with construction paper or a more elaborate one with other materials. Local merchants or staff may be willing to donate materials, or small funds may be available in the local budget. Participants may include volunteers, court officials, community members, and of course the children being adopted.

## **Why do this?**

The tree is a fun and beautiful representation of how the foster children joining their new families are a part of something larger—the need for all children to have the love and commitment found in a permanent home.

## **What goal does this program address?**

The display may have additional materials next to it with information to help educate the community about adoption and to raise awareness about the need for more foster parents and adoptive parents.

During the adoption proceedings, the presiding judge or a judge can explain the history of the tree and what each item represents. In addition to placing their leaf or other item on the tree, each adopted child may also be given a copy with their name on it to take home with them.

## **How can you start this program in your county?**

Tulare County received the idea for a tree with children's names on the branches from another court that had done a small, temporary display with paper. Tulare County took that idea and had one of its older children being adopted that year make the pattern for the tree trunk and the greenery. Staff liked the idea so much they decided on a more permanent tree made of felt. The cost of the materials is about \$50 per year. The court has paid some of the cost, and two of the clerks have donated some of the materials.

In 2002, the first names were placed on child handprints that make up the leaves of the tree as part of their Adoption Saturday Celebration. In 2003 they added apples that contained the names

of children for that year's event, and in 2004 they added butterflies. In 2005 they added ladybugs. They say, "Our Family Tree is growing beautifully each year and the surrounding nature abounds. The tree is proudly displayed in our Jury Assembly Room for the month of November. During the event each family is escorted by their assigned court volunteer to the courtroom for their adoption proceeding and the finalization of the legal document processing." A copy of the tree from 2004 was on the front cover of this technical assistance package.

**Contacts:**

Tulare County: Michelle Hineman, Court Manager, Superior Court of California, County of Tulare, 559-733-6561, ext. 191

## **Heart Gallery**

### **Photographic Display of Children Available for Adoption**

#### **What is it?**

A Heart Gallery is a photographic display in a public place of children in foster care who are waiting for permanent adoptive homes. It is a moving tribute to the need for more families for these children. The preparations for this display often involve the courts, county adoption agency/department of social services, local foundations, other adoption or foster care-related organizations, and professional photographers.

#### **Why do this?**

A moving public display of the children's pictures heightens awareness of the need for adoptive homes throughout a large area. It also helps to bring positive attention to the adoption process and to encourage those who are thinking about adopting to start the process. It demonstrates the need for children of all ages to find permanent, adoptive homes.

#### **What goal does this program address?**

This program is mainly aimed at public outreach and exposure for individual children by placing a face on an individual child who needs the love of a family. However, as a direct result, families may also be recruited for any of the children waiting for permanent homes. The photographs personalize the selection process for parents in a way that a description alone never could.

#### **How can you start this program in your county?**

Before the children's pictures may be taken, an agreement must be reached, containing specific rules for all those involved, to alleviate any privacy or other concerns. Set up the Heart Gallery display in local places that receive lots of visitors. Government buildings, libraries, shopping malls, art galleries, or many other options may be available. Try to make it also available on weekends or during evening hours. Inform your local media of the dates, location (or if the display will be shown in multiple locations), times, scheduled events such as a grand opening or a closing ceremony for the display, and why it is important.

New Heart Galleries in California are added every year. Currently, San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, and a coalition of several counties in the Bay Area have Heart Galleries. Many of these programs emphasize the need to recruit suitable foster parents and the critical

importance of establishing permanent lifelong connections for older youth when adoption is not an option.

The programs may entail a “gallery” of photos on their Web site, as well as the traditional public display of photographs at varying times of the year. Descriptions and handouts are included in the resources division of this section.

### **Contacts:**

Bay Area Heart Gallery Web site: [www.bayareaheartgallery.com/](http://www.bayareaheartgallery.com/)

Los Angeles Heart Gallery Web Site: [www.annabellaimagery.com/HeartGallery/HEARTGALLERYMAIN.htm](http://www.annabellaimagery.com/HeartGallery/HEARTGALLERYMAIN.htm)

Orange County Heart Gallery Web site: [www.heartgalleryoc.org/](http://www.heartgalleryoc.org/)

Sacramento County Heart Gallery Web site: [www.sacheartgallery.org](http://www.sacheartgallery.org)

San Diego County Heart Gallery Web site: [www.iadoptu.org/images/gallery\\_pics/index.html](http://www.iadoptu.org/images/gallery_pics/index.html)

Shasta County Heart Gallery Web site: [www.co.shasta.ca.us/Departments/SocialServices/CFS/heartgallery.htm](http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/Departments/SocialServices/CFS/heartgallery.htm)



# **Open Courthouse to Educate the Public**

## **What is it?**

An Open Courthouse is a day or set of days when the court opens its doors to the general public for an event similar to a school's "open house." This program includes judges, attorneys, social workers, CASAs, clerks, and all others involved in the adoption process.

Two new types of "Open Courthouses" have arrived with the use of the latest technology. Several courts around the country and here in California open their doors to the public in innovative new ways—24 hours a day—on the Internet. Virtual courthouse tours and "Day in the Life of the Courts" allow the public to see inside the courthouse and view some of the things that typically happen there every day. Although virtual tours and the photographs showing a day in the life typically do not address adoption in particular, they do allow the public to become more familiar with the people and building prior to the day they may need to attend a hearing.

## **Why do this?**

Having an educational day in court for the public helps raise public awareness and educate the local community on how the adoption process works and what is necessary to make the system operate efficiently. These sorts of programs may also help in finding potential adoptive parents by exposing them to the system and the children within the system. Internet-based programs such as virtual courthouses and Day in the Life photographs can also help outreach to the public through providing similar information about the adoption process, and can be a good starting point for providing contacts within the courts.

## **What goal does this program address?**

These programs are mainly aimed at public education; however, as a direct result of this effort, community members will be encouraged to donate their time and energy to the system. Such donations could take the form of hands-on help or of lobbying local representatives to ensure that adoptions are a priority of local government.

## **How can you start this program in your county?**

Set up the Open Courthouse program on weekends or during evening hours if necessary. Have attorneys, judges, social workers, or clerks give tours of the courthouse while answering questions, explaining the system, and pointing out its strengths and weaknesses. Each county can customize its tour to highlight its own strengths while stressing where it needs help from the public. Alert local media of the dates, times, scheduled events, and why it is important.

You can also work with technology or information services staff in your court to encourage more content and information on the court Web site about adoption and permanency issues during Court Adoption and Permanency month. It is also a good idea to have specific contact information and e-mail addresses for the juvenile department or more specific areas relating to adoption and permanency in larger courts.

## **Contacts:**

The main Web site for California's courts is: [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/). Web sites for each of California's superior courts often already provide contact information through which you may find out more about adoption and permanency issues in your court and community. The Web site for California superior courts is: [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/trial/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/trial/).

## **Virtual Tours of California Courts:**

Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa:  
[www.cc-courthelp.org/tours/index.php](http://www.cc-courthelp.org/tours/index.php)

Superior Court of California, County of Plumas:  
[www.plumascourt.ca.gov/court\\_history.aspx](http://www.plumascourt.ca.gov/court_history.aspx)

Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento:  
[www.saccourt.com/geninfo/public\\_educ/Virtual\\_Courthouse/virtCourtHome.asp](http://www.saccourt.com/geninfo/public_educ/Virtual_Courthouse/virtCourtHome.asp)

## **Day in the Life of the Courts:**

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/)

### **Courts Included:**

- Superior Court of Alameda
- Superior Court of Butte
- Superior Court of El Dorado County
- Superior Court of Fresno County
- Superior Court of Orange County
- Superior Court of Riverside County

# **Volunteer or Mentor Attorney Program**

## **What is it?**

There are several different ways to encourage more interest in current or prospective attorneys working on adoption and permanency issues. One way is to solicit private adoption attorneys (either through the local bar or through the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and California Adoption Attorneys) to mentor other attorneys and teach them to handle simple adoptions.

Another option is organizing a mentor program through the local bar associations for new or pending bar results attorneys, or for students in local law schools with a family law curriculum. The students or new attorneys could participate in workshops for prospective adoptive parents and help with the final documents for the final hearings.

## **Why do this?**

This will encourage more current or prospective attorneys to work in the adoption and permanency field and provides networking opportunities for participants to share their hard work, concerns, and ideas with others in their field. Attorneys also could earn their mandatory pro bono hours through the program.

## **What goal does this program address?**

Mentoring is a wonderful way to reach those attorneys already interested in adoption or to recruit prospective ones. It can serve as a means to raise new solutions to difficult issues through collaboration around this important issue.

## **How can you start this program in your county?**

Contact your local bar association, or the other organizations listed below, and ask about mentoring programs they may already have. Work with adoption attorneys you may know to recruit mentors as well. Also contact any local law schools and ask for their internship or volunteer coordinator to let them know of the opportunity.

**Contacts:**

Local Bar Organizations: *American Bar Association, Division of Bar Services, State and Local Bar Association Directory for California* Web site: [www.abanet.org/barserv/map/ca.html](http://www.abanet.org/barserv/map/ca.html)

American Academy of Adoption Attorneys: 202-832-2222

Web site: [www.adoptionattorneys.org/](http://www.adoptionattorneys.org/)

California Adoption Attorneys: *Academy of California Adoption Lawyers and the Academy of California Family Formation Lawyers*: 818-501-8355

Web site: <http://acal.org/>

(Many other Web sites also list attorneys specializing in adoption in California.)

## **B. Resources**

- Adoption Family Tree Display (Sample Cover from 2005 Court Adoption and Permanency Guide)
- The Adoption Pathway: Questions and Answers (Kinship Center Brochure)
- Heart Galleries:
  - Bay Area
  - Orange County
  - Sacramento County
  - San Diego County Fact Sheet and Agreement
  - Shasta County





# Court Adoption & Permanency Month

## Technical Assistance Package



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS

CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN  
& THE COURTS

Photograph courtesy of the Superior Court of  
California, County of Tulare's Adoption "Family Tree"







*Design your own adoption plan—selecting those features that are important to you—it's your choice.*

- Choose the adoptive family, who have been thoroughly screened and prepared for parenthood, from family descriptions and photos they have provided.
- Meet the adoptive family, and exchange full identifying information.
- Receive financial assistance for medical and living expenses. Be guaranteed that the baby will be placed with the family you select.
- Spend time with your baby before the placement.
- Arrange for your baby to go home with the adoptive family directly from the hospital.
- Exchange photos and letters with the adoptive family as your child grows.
- Visit with the family and baby following the adoption and develop an ongoing relationship.

*Kinship Center recognizes that adoption is a life-long process, so we will always be available for you, for your child and for the adoptive parents.*



## *KINnections* A Program of KINSHIP CENTER®



*At Kinship Center we offer the following:*

- Free services
- A personal relationship with a social worker who cares about you and your needs.
- Full and accurate information about your legal rights.
- Experience and knowledge to help you through every step of your decision-making, as well as the adoption itself.
- Support groups for young women and men who are faced with similar issues.
- Adoptive families who have been thoroughly screened and prepared for parenthood.

1520 Brookhollow Dr., Ste. 41  
Santa Ana, CA 92705  
(714) 979-2365 Fax: (714) 979-8135

Statewide: 1-800-4-KINSHIP  
Email: [kinship@redshift.com](mailto:kinship@redshift.com)  
[www.kinshipcenter.org](http://www.kinshipcenter.org)

Lic. # 275201360 Adoption  
Lic. # 2752013559 Foster Care  
Santa Ana Foster Care Lic. # 306009620

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## The Adoption Pathway: Questions & Answers



*KINnections*  
"An open adoption journey"

Tel: (714) 979-2365



A Program of  
KINSHIP CENTER®



## Why do people choose adoption?

An unplanned pregnancy can cause confusion. Every birth parent that places a child with an adoptive family has different reasons. A mother may want her baby to have two parents, or may feel she's too young, or doesn't have enough money to raise a child. She may want to complete her education or start a career. Sometimes people who already have children feel they just can't care for another.

### *If I do place my baby for adoption, will the sad feelings ever go away?*

You'll never forget your child - you wouldn't want to. And there may always be some sadness. But knowing you've given your baby the best possible start in life, with the love and security of a good family, can make you feel better. You will feel relieved and secure by seeing your child grow up in a home and family that you have created for your child.

### *What if my family and friends are critical about adoption?*

People will have their opinions. This is your decision that you make for your child and the best decisions are made by getting all the information possible. It is easy for others to pass judgment when they don't understand all the facts and feelings. Adoption can be and is a loving choice.

### *I'm having a hard time with my own feelings, especially when I think about giving up my baby. I am sad and scared, both. Do other mothers feel this way?*

Nearly Always. Important decisions are often hard decisions. But when you look first at what's best for your child, and then what's best for you, it will help you clear away the confusion and make the right decisions.

### *How can I be sure my baby will be placed with a good family?*

By choosing a family that has been carefully screened and prepared for parenting. At Kinship Center, we get to know a couple very well before we approve them to be adoptive parents. We want to know that they have a solid marriage and are financially responsible. We discuss their reasons for wanting to adopt, and we get to know their interests, their lifestyle, and their medical history. We even get a fingerprint check and verify that they have no record of criminal activity or child abuse. We provide workshops on adoption and parenting which they must attend. The final decision is yours. You will be able to build a relationship with the family and be secure in your choice of parents for your baby.

### *What will my child be told about me and about the adoption?*

Since, you and the adoptive family will be sharing information about yourselves and your families' history directly with each other, your child will learn about you in a personal and loving way. This is what open adoption is all about.

### *Can I be involved in choosing the family for my baby and is my choice guaranteed?*

Yes, you can be as involved as you want to be. You select your baby's new parents and be guaranteed placement with them. You have these choices through what we call "open adoption," and you decide how "open" your adoption will be. Kinship Center will help you and the family build and nurture a new and ongoing relationship that will benefit your child.

### *What if I want to place my child with a family I already know? Can I still come to Kinship Center?*

Absolutely, we can work with you and the adoptive family you have chosen. You'll get the assurance that the family is evaluated and prepared before the adoption. And you'll be able to talk over your own feelings and plans before you make your decision.

### *Can I get any help from Kinship Center during the pregnancy - like money for expenses?*

If you need financial assistance, Kinship Center has adoptive families who can help with your medical care, living expenses, or other costs related to the pregnancy. Kinship Center will also help you apply for any public assistance or insurance benefits to which you are entitled. Referrals for a safe, confidential living situation can also be made for you, if necessary.

### *After the adoption can I know how my baby's getting along?*

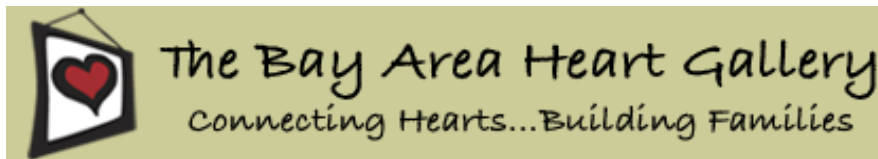
Kinship Center can help you decide what type of relationship works best for you, your child, and the adoptive family. You and the adoptive family may agree to stay in touch personally and develop an ongoing relationship. We help prepare everybody for the feelings that lie ahead.

### *If I choose adoption, when is my decision final?*

Under California law, you do not have to decide about the adoption until after your baby is born. It's a good idea to think about your plans as early in your pregnancy as possible, especially if you'd like your baby to go home with the adoptive family directly from the hospital, but Kinship Center will never pressure you to make a decision until you are ready. Once you decide to place your baby for adoption, however, and sign the necessary papers, your decision is permanent. Your baby will legally become a member of the adoptive family and will begin a lifetime relationship with them. This decision affects many people and Kinship Center is available to meet with you and your family.







### **What is The Bay Area Heart Gallery?**

- ❖ It is a professional “traveling” photography exhibit featuring children and youth in foster care who are in need of an adoptive home or a permanent lifelong connection to a committed adult.
- ❖ We are a partnership of 22 public and private agencies serving children and youth in foster care throughout the Bay Area.
- ❖ Alameda County Social Services Agency is the lead Agency for this project.
- ❖ Co-Chairs: Robin Fryday, Professional Photographer and Fredi Juni, Alameda County Social Services Agency
- ❖ The two Co-chairs envisioned, founded and organized the BAGH. They provide ongoing coordination and leadership to the project.
- ❖ We are working together with community volunteers that include professional photographers, businesses and artists.
- ❖ It is a stunning exhibit of over 50 photographs of children, youth and families accompanied by their compelling stories.
- ❖ Over 50 professional photographers have donated their talents and time to put a real face on the children and youth living in foster care in the Bay Area.
- ❖ New photographs of children and youth will be added throughout the year.

### **The Bay Area Heart Gallery is Unique**

- ❖ There have been over 80 Heart Galleries across the country primarily focusing on children in foster care in need of adoption. The Bay Area Heart Gallery is focuses not only on adoption but also recruits foster parents and permanent lifelong connections for older youth when adoption is not an option.
- ❖ The exhibit includes portraits of diverse families from across the Bay Area, seeking to inspire all different types of community members to come forward and get involved with children and youth in foster care.
- ❖ Resource information is available at the exhibits to educate the community about the needs of children and youth living in foster care about and how to get involved with foster youth when foster care or adoption is not an option (as advocate, friend, mentor, extended family, in arts projects, etc.)

### **Goals of the Bay Area Heart Gallery**

- ❖ To raise community awareness about the needs of children and youth in foster care
- ❖ To recruit adoptive parents, foster parents and committed adults to build lifelong relationships and families.

### **Calendar/Contact**

- ❖ In San Francisco –from June 5-June 30 at One Market, at 1 Market St. in downtown San Francisco
- ❖ The Exhibit will travel across eight bay area counties throughout the year (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Sonoma.)
- ❖ Please check our website for calendar of ongoing venues throughout the year  
[www.bayareaheartgallery.com](http://www.bayareaheartgallery.com)
- ❖ Contact us at 1-888-HRT-GLRY

### **Foster Care Data**

- ❖ Over 10,000 in foster care in the Bay Area
- ❖ Over 83,000 in foster care in CA
- ❖ Over 500,000 in foster care across the country
- ❖ 54% reunified with families
- ❖ More children of color in foster care than general US population
- ❖ Nearly half of the children in foster care are over 10; the average is 10.2 years old

## Frequently Asked Questions about The Bay Area Heart Gallery

### Why a Heart Gallery

- ❖ A picture does say a thousand words. Heart Galleries gives a human face to what too often are just foster care statistics. The Heart Gallery is an opportunity to take foster children out of the shadows, from invisibility into a presentation of what they truly are -- alive and vibrant human beings who need families, as we all do.
- ❖ It is a hugely successful child specific recruitment strategy. Over 300 children have been adopted in just six heart galleries across the country.
- ❖ The average person in our communities knows little to nothing about children and youth that live in foster care.
- ❖ In California 4000 youth "age out" annually – most without a lifelong connection
  - 25-44% have experienced homelessness
  - Only 54% have earned their H.S. diploma
  - 62% were not able to support themselves
  - 38% were coping with serious emotion problems
- ❖ Many of these youth age out feeling alone and insolated and suffer from anxiety and depression. As such, they are primed for situations such as alcohol and drug abuse, homelessness and incarceration.
- ❖ People are inspired by the pictures to consider becoming foster or adoptive parent.
- ❖ The Heart Gallery plants a seed.

### How did you get Photographers involved?

- ❖ Primarily through word of mouth, many local photographers have come forward.
- ❖ Robin Fryday, a Professional Photographer and one of Project Co-Chairs, reached out to photographers across the region.
- ❖ Some photographers have contacted us and come from across the country, including a few who have volunteered for other Heart Galleries.

### Who is featured in the Gallery?

- ❖ Children and youth waiting for adoption or older youth who want a permanent relationship with a committed adult.
- ❖ Children of all ages, including older youth and sibling groups that have waited longest for an adoptive family.

### How are children and youth selected?

- ❖ Social Workers from 8 Bay Area Counties refer children and youth that are in need of child specific recruitment and older children and youth who are open to this method of public recruitment for adoption and permanent connections.

### Why adopt an older child?

- ❖ Most youth who age out of the system say they wish they had been adopted
- ❖ Many children and youth have an incredible resiliency and do well
- ❖ Studies have shown that if a child has 1 committed and loving adult in their lives, this can make the all the difference

### What help is needed?

- ❖ Financial Sponsorship of our Heart Gallery (Funds/Sponsorship, in-kind donations to support exhibit, including film, photo printing, frames, displays, food/drink for receptions, database management, printing of brochures, flyers, posters, other resource materials).
- ❖ Venues
- ❖ Volunteers with skills in graphic design, photography, marketing, fundraising, child welfare services, etc.
- ❖ Visit our Website for more information [www.bayareaheartgallery.com](http://www.bayareaheartgallery.com)



[About Us](#) • [Gallery](#) • [Events](#) • [Sponsors & Partners](#) • [How to Help](#) • [Press](#) • [Contact Us](#)



### About the orange county Heart Gallery chapter

The Heart Gallery of Orange County is a unique and stirring photographic exhibit of legally adoptable children and sibling groups in state custody who dream of having a "forever family". Award-winning photographers donate their time to capture the special spirit of each child. Since its inception in Santa Fe in 2001, The Heart Gallery message has spread to other states, where it has been successful in putting a face on adoption and finding homes for many waiting children. It has been featured on CBS, NPR and in CameraArts magazine, Women's World, Parade, and the New York Times. Following its opening, each Heart Gallery exhibit tours the state to bring awareness about the need for adoptive families to all corners of the country.

The mission of the Heart Gallery of Orange County is to inspire Southern Californians who otherwise might never see themselves as potential adoptive and foster parents.

The Heart Gallery of Orange County seeks qualified and willing people willing to become adoptive and foster families to children whose families cannot or will not care for them.

For more information email us at: [oc4kids@ssa.ocgov.com](mailto:oc4kids@ssa.ocgov.com)

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## Facts about the Heart Gallery of Sacramento:

### **Sacramento Heart Gallery Board**

\*Rosemary Papa  
Beverly Austin  
Hunter Austin  
Joel Ayres  
Marco Martinez  
Rebecca Radding  
Leah Santos

### **SCASA: Sacramento Court Appointed Special Advocates**

\*Heather C. Corfee, *Executive Director*

### **Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services: Child Protective Services Division**

\*Mary Tarro, *Program Manager*  
Stephanie Lynch, *Program Manager*  
Helen Barber, *Adoption Program Specialist*  
Terry Kessler, *Adoption Supervisor*  
Laurie Slothower, *Public Information Officer*  
Theresa Thurmond, *Program Manager*

### **Sierra Adoption Services**

\*Kim Rhineholder, *Development Officer*  
Jennifer Highley, *Adoption Supervisor*

### **Lilliput Children's Services**

\*Karen Seebach, *Social Worker*

### **Photographers**

\*Marco Martinez  
Brandon Abell  
Blue Flame Design  
(*Kyle Shorts*)  
(*Jessica Papa-Shorts*)  
Jayson Carpenter  
Alan Fishleder  
Stacey Kennedy  
Laura Niznik  
Kathleen Noonan  
Rosemary Papa  
Sam Parsons  
Mary Reddick  
Catalina Rivas  
Delmar Tompkins  
Nichole Jackson-Young  
\*Key Contact Persons

The Sacramento Heart Gallery features children ages six to fifteen, sibling sets and those with special needs to help them get adopted. The Sacramento exhibit will be shown from October 19 through November 17, 2006 at the Library Gallery of CSU-Sacramento, with a grand opening and public invitation taking place Saturday, October 28, 2006. The Heart Gallery of Sacramento is a collaboration between volunteers from Sacramento State University, Sacramento County Child Protective Services, the California Department of Social Services, Sierra Adoption Services, Lilliput Children's Services, and Court Appointed Special Advocates of Sacramento and friends.

Photographs will highlight children in the "CapKIDS Are Waiting" program, a collaboration between Sacramento County and Sierra Adoption Services to find homes for foster children with disabilities, and "Destination: Family," a collaboration between Sacramento and Nevada counties and Sierra Adoption Services.

Funding for the Heart Gallery of Sacramento comes entirely from private donors. We are affiliated with SCASA-Sacramento Court Appointed Special Advocates.

### **Adoption:**

Children available to be adopted in Sacramento County are those who have been abused or neglected or had parents who were unable to care for them.

To adopt a child in Sacramento County, you must first be a licensed foster parent.

About 8,000 children are adopted in California every year.

About 400 children are adopted in Sacramento County every year.

How many children need adoptive homes? About 700 children are in the Sacramento County Adoption program, although homes have been found for many of them. Another 1,100 children in long-term foster care will need adoptive or guardianship homes.

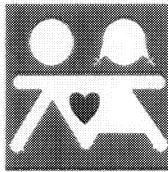
There are negligible adoption costs.

Note: The first Heart Gallery opened in Santa Fe., N.M. in 2001. Diane Granito, an adoptions recruiter for the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department, organized a group of amateur and professional photographers to take pictures of children needing adoptive homes. Granito wanted photos that stood from the normal photos shown to prospective parents, capturing each child's unique spirit and personality. About 15 cities in a dozen states will have Heart Gallery exhibits this year.

For More Information: Please contact us at **info @ sacheartgallery.org**







## **Heart Gallery 2005**

### **FACT SHEET**

#### **The 2005 Heart Gallery: Photographs Making a Difference**

- WHAT:** In keeping with the adage that "a picture is worth a thousand words; the San Diego County Adoptions Program has teamed with The Child Abuse Prevention Foundation, local community leaders and top San Diego photographers to host San Diego's first Heart Gallery – a photographic event to make a difference in the lives of local children awaiting adoption. Inspired by the article highlighting the successful events across the nation in *Parade Magazine*, local leaders hope to raise awareness about the need of permanent homes for local youth of all ages in San Diego County.
- WHEN:** **Heart Gallery Opening – The Prado, Ballroom, Balboa Park**  
The Heart Gallery will make its debut on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, in 2005 as part of National Adoption Awareness month, hosted by David and Leslie Cohn at the Prado Restaurant Ballroom in Balboa Park. The gallery will then move to different prominent locations throughout San Diego County. These additional locations will be announced leading up to the grand opening event in November.
- WHERE:** **The Prado Restaurant Ballroom, Balboa Park (Additional Locations TBA)**
- WHY:** There is no greater joy than being a parent and giving a child the gift of a family. There are many children in our community who need us to provide the guidance and security that only a family can give through adoption. Together we can help to raise awareness about the need for adoptive families, and most importantly, find "forever homes" for the many children awaiting adoption through the San Diego County Adoptions program. Remember, a child in San Diego is waiting. For more information about how you can help with the Heart Gallery project, or to visit one of the galleries, go to [www.iadoptu.org](http://www.iadoptu.org), or contact 1-877-423-6788.

#### **About San Diego County Adoptions**

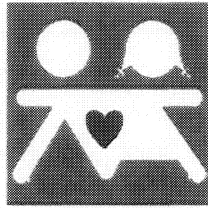
San Diego County Adoptions is a public adoption agency licensed by the State Dept. of Health, serving three groups – biological parents, available children, and adults wishing to build their families through adoption. For more information, please visit [www.iadoptu.org](http://www.iadoptu.org), or call 1-877-423-6788.

#### **About the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation**

Founded in 1981, the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation (CAPF) is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to breaking the cycle of child abuse through prevention, education, advocacy and funding. The Foundation has raised more than \$20 million in the fight against child abuse in San Diego. For more information please call (858) 278-4400, or visit [www.capfsd.org](http://www.capfsd.org).

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### **Heart Gallery Agreement**

**June 13, 2005**

1. Photographer can select his/her own final photo for display in the Heart Gallery and how he/she will be identified.
2. Photographer to determine location site for shoot. Photographer should also recommend attire they hope to have child wearing for the shoot. If a site is needed, the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation office can be made available at no charge (9440 Ruffin Court, Suite 2, San Diego, 92123).
3. A county social worker will be with the child during the photo shoot.
4. It is possible that the photo shoot might be of a sibling set, not just one child.
5. County social workers will be responsible for obtaining permission from the Superior Court to allow the children to participate in the photo shoot.
6. Photographer may provide brochures and/or professional materials to handout at all venues.
7. Photographers consent to donate his/her time, talent, equipment, supplies to the 2005 Heart Gallery project in collaboration with the donated services of the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation.
8. In the event that a child is adopted prior to the opening of the Heart Gallery, the parents of that child would decide whether that child will be part of the Heart Gallery Exhibit.
9. All photographs, digital files, hard copies, and negatives will be donated for the purposes of helping to get children adopted. These photos, files, and/ or negatives will be the property of the County and the newly adopting parent(s).
10. Photographer can use a photograph for his/her own publicity only after obtaining permission from the County and/or the newly adopting parent(s).
11. On occasion, the County might need to quickly crop or reprint a child's photograph for an adoption recruitment meeting other than the Heart Gallery.
12. Publicity for the Heart Gallery will be donated and arranged by the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation and the County.
13. Our hope is that each photographer will be able to provide one completed photograph, either black and white or color, of one child at least 11 X 16 inches, framed in whatever manner the photographer feels will capture the child's spirit and personality.

The ultimate goal of the Heart Gallery is to give abused children a chance to have a loving family for the rest of their life; we cannot erase their past nor pain, but we can offer them a better life for their future. It is with this goal in mind that we ask for your help and are grateful for the contribution that you can make in an effort to help our city's children.

# CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES (CFS)

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## The Heart Gallery of Shasta County

The Heart Gallery is here in Shasta County! Our opening date was Nov. 3, 2005, at Turtle Bay Museum. The mission of the Heart Gallery is to inspire people who otherwise might never see themselves as potential adoptive and foster parents.

We have decided to expand our Gallery to not only recruit adoptive families for our children but also to recruit foster families for those children who do not want to be adopted but need a family to commit to them and help transition them to independence and hopefully be a resource for them after they "age out." The Gallery seeks qualified people willing to become adoptive and foster families to children whose families cannot or will not care for them. The goals of the Gallery are:

1. To expose these waiting children to a great number of the general public, in anticipation of locating their adoptive family (or long-term foster family).
2. To provide the public with a greater understanding of Shasta County's adoptive and foster care needs.
3. To provide an attractive brochure that will have all the contact information necessary to begin the foster care - adoptive process.

For those of you who haven't heard about the Heart Gallery:

Photographers donate their time to take photographs of our children that capture their personality. These photographs are then displayed in various settings. We have also chosen to have pictures of a variety of types of families who have adopted.

The idea for the Heart Gallery project started

[Domestic Violence Prevention Services](#)

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as a means to raise awareness about adoption and find homes for older children and sibling groups in protective custody with the New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD). Former recruitment supervisor Ellie Ortiz thought beautiful portraits of the children would place a much needed positive focus on Special Needs Adoption. The project was implemented by CYFD recruiter Diane Granito when she was hired as a grassroots recruiter for Santa Fe and eight other New Mexico counties. Since funds were limited, it was necessary to obtain donations of many of the necessary goods and services. As a first time project, organizing and implementing the exhibit was a hands-on learning experience. Diane's first step, after naming the project, was to approach the Gerald Peters Gallery, where Lisa Bronowicz gave Diane an enthusiastic "yes" to hosting the event. The energy and generosity of the community (photographers, framers, media, etc.) created an impetus which resulted in an opening in March 2001 with over 1,000 people attending.

Subsequent Heart Galleries have opened across the country. It has proven to be an extremely effective recruitment tool and a great many children have found families through it.

Thanks for taking the time to read this, and for considering the permanency needs of our children.

**[See the current children in our Heart Gallery here in Shasta County!](#)**

[Parade magazine article about Heart Gallery projects across the country](#)

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